

CLAIMS

1. Chewing gum compositions containing
 - (a) a water-insoluble base component,
 - 5 (b) a water-soluble component and
 - (c) extracts of plants selected from the group consisting of *Ginkgo biloba*, *Camellia sinensis*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Vitis vitifera*, *Olea europensis*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Salix (alba)*, *Harpagophytum procumbens* and mixtures thereof.
- 10 2. Chewing gum compositions containing
 - (a) a water-insoluble base component,
 - (b) a water-soluble component and
 - 15 (c) plant-derived active principles selected from the group consisting of catechols, flavonoids, quercitrins, resveratrols, flavonoid glycosides, isoflavones, isoflavone glycosides, iridoid glycosides, harpagosides, harpagides, proambides, anthocyanosides and salicylates and mixtures thereof.
- 20 3. Compositions as claimed in claims 1 and/or 2, characterized in that they contain as component (a) water-insoluble components selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic elastomers, resins, fats and oils, plasticizers, fillers, softeners, dyes and waxes.
- 25 4. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that they contain component (a) in quantities of 5 to 95% by weight.
5. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that they contain as component (b) water-soluble
- 30 components selected from the group consisting of softeners, sweeteners,

fillers, flavors, flavor enhancers, emulsifiers, dyes, acidifying agents and antioxidants.

6. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that they contain component (b) in quantities of 5 to 95%
5 by weight.

7. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that they contain as component (c) microcapsules with mean diameters of 0.0001 to 5 mm which consist of a membrane and a matrix containing the plant extracts and/or the plant-derived active
10 principles and which can be obtained by

- (a1) preparing a matrix from gel formers, chitosans and active principles,
 - (a2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase and
 - (a3) treating the dispersed matrix with aqueous solutions of anionic
15 polymers and optionally removing the oil phase in the process
- or by
- (b1) preparing a matrix from gel formers, anionic polymers and active principles,
 - (b2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase and
 - 20 (b3) treating the dispersed matrix with aqueous chitosan solutions and optionally removing the oil phase in the process
- or by
- (c1) processing aqueous active principle preparations with oil components in the presence of emulsifiers to form o/w emulsions,
 - 25 (c2) treating the emulsions obtained with aqueous solutions of anionic polymers,
 - (c3) contacting the matrix thus obtained with aqueous chitosan solutions and
 - (c4) removing the encapsulation products thus obtained from the
30 aqueous phase.

8. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that they contain component (c) in quantities of 0.1 to 10% by weight.
- 5 9. Compositions as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that they contain
- (a) 5 to 49% by weight water-insoluble base component,
 - (b) 5 to 49% by weight water-soluble component and
 - 10 (c) 2 to 10% by weight optionally encapsulated plant extracts and/or their active principles,

with the proviso that the quantities shown add up to 100% by weight.

10. The use of the plant extracts claimed in claim 1 or the active
15 principles contained therein claimed in claim 2 for the production of chewing gum preparations.